



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

June 20, 2000

Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
US Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Suite 501 Evergreen Plaza
711 South Capitol Way
Olympia, Washington 98501-1284

Re: Batched Bridge Scour Repair Projects, Wenatchee River, Biological Opinion
(WSB-99-591/WSB-00-230)

Dear Mr. Fong:

This document transmits the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) biological opinion for the above referenced projects. NMFS has concluded review of the proposed SR 2/97 Batched Bridge Scour Repair projects in the Wenatchee River Basin located in Chelan County, Washington. NMFS has assessed project effects on upper Columbia River (UCR) steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and upper Columbia River (UCR) chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Your requests for formal consultations were received September 3, 1999 and February 7, 2000. This biological opinion is based on information provided in the August 1999 and January 2000 biological assessments, meetings and telephone conversations with Gregor Myhr, Marion Carey and Claton Belmont, Harold Redman, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT); Perry Harvester, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); Richard Smith, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and other sources of information. A complete administrative record of this consultation is on file at the Washington Habitat Branch Office.

Consultation for these projects began January 5, 2000 with the receipt of requested information from WSDOT. The consultation was amended February 8, 2000 with the receipt of your request for formal consultation on two additional bridge scour projects in the Wenatchee River and a joint WSDOT/NMFS decision to combine the consultations into a single biological opinion.

The WSDOT determined that the proposed projects are likely to adversely affect UCR steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and UCR chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). The NMFS concurs with the WSDOT determination that the proposed projects are likely to adversely



affect steelhead and chinook.

The enclosed document represents the NMFS biological opinion on the effects of the action on UCR steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and UCR chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The NMFS concludes that implementation of the proposed project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of UCR steelhead and UCR chinook, although incidental take of the species is possible. In your review, especially note the incidental take statement, which includes reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions to minimize take of steelhead and chinook.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Guy of my staff at the Washington State Habitat Branch Office, (360) 534-9342.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William W. Stelle Jr.", written in a cursive style.

William W. Stelle Jr.
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:

cc: Catherine Nicholas, FHWA
Paul Wagner, WSDOT